135 W. 45th St.,

April 17, 1887.

My dear May,

I am not quite sure whether my MS. will fall first into your hands or Howland's, but in any event I hope you and he will enjoy it together. Then, whatever work has to be done, you must, so far as possible, turn it over to Howland. If, however, you find yourself strong enough to fulfil that office, I shall be most glad to have you read the review in public. Your age and position as a representative Abolitionist, other things being equal, would lend weight to the performance. How good a reader Howland is I do not know, but I should like the reading to

be well and effectively done.

It may be that the Society will do what we want without objection, in which case there may be no need of enforcing our claim by means of such a letter from Abolitionists as I suggested. Of course the simplest way, if effectual, is the best.

In preparing the review I was not aware that the Society had published Thayer's attack in its Proceedings. Consequently I think it will be well to modify my last paragraph by substituting ~~therefor~~ the enclosed copy.

I wonder what ignoramus will next take up the cudgel in opposition to the Garrisonians! I have demolished quite a crowd in the last seven years, but I am ready for more if there

are others yet to come. I am getting the hang of the business after so much practice.

I must again caution you not to undertake any work that will endanger your health. You must not be driven out by your chimney-corner before you are fully able to go.

Yours, ever,

Oliver Johnson.

Ms. B.1.6 v.11, p. 78